

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Advisory Action dated February 13, 2004. In this Advisory Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-16 and allowed claims 17-23 and 25-28. Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Advisory Action. The following remarks and above amendments are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action, and sufficient to patentably distinguish all claims at issue over the applied art of record.

Claims 1-28 remain pending. Claims 1, 7 and 10 are amended and claim 2 is canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added and that the originally filed specification, drawings, and claims support the amendments.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(B)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by Ker et al. (US#5,631,793).

Ker et al. disclose a capacitor-couple electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection circuit for protecting an internal circuit and/or an output buffer of an IC from being damaged by an ESD current (Abstract). Ker's invention is an ESD protection circuit 223 that consists of a PMOS transistor, a NMOS transistor and a potential leveling device. According to Ker's invention, the ESD protection circuit 223 is coupled to an input pad and a voltage source (VDD) as shown in Figure 2.

However, according to the present invention, amended claim 1 recites that the ESD device is coupled to a first power supply and a second power supply as shown in Figure 4. In other words, the ESD device of the present invention can be used in a mixed-voltage power system. An RC controlled circuit is coupled with the mixed-voltage circuit assembly.

Nowhere in Ker is it taught or suggested that the ESD device can be coupled to two different power supplies. And nowhere in Ker is it taught or suggested that the ESD device can be used in a mixed-voltage circuit assembly. Thus, the subject matter as taught in amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Ker.

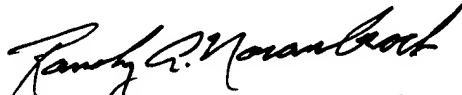
CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims as currently presented are in condition for allowance and hereby respectfully requests reconsideration. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at her earliest convenience.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP



Randy A. Noranbrock
Registration No. 42,940

for: Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

Customer Number: 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
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BJH/etp